

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-06

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

AMCONSUL KARACHI

AMCONSUL LAHORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L ISLAMABAD 6996

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PK, IN, BD

SUBJECT: INDO-PAK TALKS

REF: NEW DELHI 9898, LONDON 9795 (NOTAL)

1. DURING MY MEETING AUGUST 26 AT HIS LARKANA HOME, PRIMIN BHUTTO SAID HE WANTED TO BRING ME UP TO DATE ON CURRENT INDO-PAK TALKS IN DELHI. IT HAD BEEN DIFFICULT FOR HIM TO GET FULL PICTURE OF WHAT WAS HAPPENING THERE AND HE THEREFORE ASKED FONSEC SHAHI TO COME TO SEE HIM. SHAHI HAD RETURNED TO DELHI THE PREVIOUS DAY WITH BHUTTO'S INSTRUCTIONS.

2. BHUTTO SAID THE INDIAN SIDE HAD PROPOSED FOLLOWING FORMULA: ALL RPT ALL BENGALIS NOW IN PAKISTAN SHOULD BE REPATRIATED TO BANGLADESH; PAKISTAN MUST RECEIVE ALL 260,000 QTE NON-BENGALIS UNQTE WHO HAVE INDICATED DESIRE TO LEAVE BANGLADESH FOR PAKISTAN; AND ALL BUT
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195 PAK POWS SHOULD BE REPATRIATED BY INDIA TO PAKIS-

TAN -- THE FUTURE OF THE RETAINED 195 TO BE DETERMINED IN TRILATERAL NEGOTIATIONS (INCLUDING BANGLADESH) ON BASIS OF QTE SOVEREIGN EQUALITY. UNQTE REFERENCE TO SOVEREIGN EQUALITY, BHUTTO REMARKED, WAS ANOTHER WAY OF STATING THAT GOP WOULD HAVE TO RECOGNIZE BANGLADESH PRIOR TO ANY NEGOTIATIONS ON THE 195 POWS NOW SAID TO BE SUBJECT TO TRIAL BY GBD.

3. FOLLOWING HIS DISCUSSIONS AT LARKANA WITH SHAHI, GOP POSITION AS FORMULATED BY BHUTTO FOR FINAL DAYS OF CURRENT INDO-PAK TALKS IS AS FOLLOWS:

(A) INDIA SHOULD REDUCE TO VERY MINIMUM THE NUMBER OF POWS (NOW PROPOSED AT 195) WHO WOULD BE RETAINED SUBJECT TO FURTHER DISCUSSIONS RE TRIALS. IN THIS REGARD, BHUTTO SAID HE HAD REPORT TO EFFECT THAT SHEIKH MUJIBUR RAHMAN HAD SAID HE WANTED TO TRY ONLY FIVE OR SIX OR SEVEN PAKISTANIS.

(B) GOP COULD RECEIVE MAXIMUM OF 70,000 BIHARIS (INCLUDING THOSE WHO HAD FLED FROM BANGLADESH TO NEPAL).

(C) GOP HAD ALREADY, IN EFFECT, ACCORDED DE FACTO RECOGNITION TO BANGLADESH THROUGH VARIOUS ACTIONS AND STATEMENTS. GOP COULD NOT MOVE TO DE JURE RECOGNITION UNTIL WAR-TRIALS ISSUE WAS OUT OF WAY. BHUTTO REFERRED TO RESOLUTION PASSED BY PAKISTAN NATIONAL ASSEMBLY IN JULY WHICH WAS CLEAR ON THIS POINT.

4. BHUTTO SAID HE HOPED FOR RAPID PROGRESS IN FINAL DAYS OF DELHI TALKS. THEY WOULD HAVE TO END, SO FAR AS PAKISTAN CONCERNED, BY AUGUST 29 BECAUSE AZIZ AHMED (LEADER OF PAKDEL) WAS DUE TO ARRIVE IN PAKING AUGUST 30 FOR A VISIT ARRANGED SOME TIME AGO. BHUTTO DID NOT VOLUNTEER ANY PREDICTION BUT HE APPEARED TO ME TO BE HOPEFUL OF A BREAKTHROUGH IN THE TALKS NOW GOING ON IN DELHI. I TOOK OCCASION TO EXPRESS OUR OWN MOST SINCERE HOPES FOR IMPORTANT PROGRESS AT THE CURRENT TALKS.

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